



Economic Summit Nears...Register Now

The Annual Economic Summit on Women will be held Monday, Oct. 22, 2012 at the Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel. The day-long event features high-caliber speakers and experts from throughout the country. Keynote speakers include, Laurel Bellows, president of the American Bar Association, Lilly Ledbetter, author and advocate for the Fair Pay Act, named in her honor and signed into law in 2009, and Deb Sofield, executive speech coach, who has

trained executives and political figures on presentation skills.

Break-out sessions will include a strong list of topics and subjects of great interest to women and those interested in the continued growth and development of women. This year's theme, "Charting the Course to Economic Equality," sets the stage for a healthy exchange of ideas and information gathering.

Sessions include "Diversity & Inclusion," "The Eco-

nomic Impact of Domestic Violence," "Managing Life with Debt, Children, Senior Parents and Your Business, Economic Solutions," "Turning Personal Resources Into Cash," "2012 Legislation & Policies Affecting Women," and "Where do Women Stand Today." Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, executive director of the Council along with Senior Research Manager Bill Arth, will present the status of women in Tennessee in the "County-By-County Report."

Exhibitors with an educational and entertaining focus as well as retail, will showcase unique and interesting items with strong appeal to this audience.

Register Now!

**Early Registration
Ends October 12**

Find us on the web at
www.tnwomensummit.org

Or Call Katie Radel at
615.830.5404

Understanding Diversity & Inclusion

Diversity & Inclusion is the topic of one of eight sessions at the Ninth Annual Economic Summit for Women, scheduled for Oct. 22 at the Nashville Airport Marriott. This session features Beverly Watts, Executive Director of the TN Human Rights Commission and Susan Allen Huggins, Executive Director of CABLE-Nashville and President of the Rotary Club of Nashville, one of the largest Rotary Clubs in the world.



Beverly Watts

help leaders develop successful diversity and inclusion initiatives and answer the questions. What is diversity? Is it different from inclusion? Why should we care?

Diversity is a broad topic encompassing acceptance and respect. Beverly

Watts said, "Diversity and inclusion mean understanding that each of us is unique and different because of many factors such as race, gender, ethnicity and culture, age, where we grew up, and our beliefs. There will be a special focus on the challenges leadership faces as it relates to generational issues."

Susan Allen Huggins said, "This is a session for anyone

who wants to understand the benefits of diversity and inclusion." This session will help attendees to reflect as well as project. It poses questions and allows for individual answers.



Susan Huggins

The Diversity & Inclusion

Workshop will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Salon E. The theme of this year's Summit is "Charting the Course to Economic Equality."

For more information about this workshop or the Ninth Economic Summit on Women, please visit us at: www.tnwomensummit.org or call Phyllis Qualls-Brooks at 615.253.4266.

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TECW/Foundation Annual Retreat



Pictured from left to right: (Back Row) Pat Pierce, Kathleen Armour Walker, Rep. Janis Sontany, Ruby Miller, Kristi Stanley, Dena Wise; (Middle Row) Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Rep. Johnnie Turner, Carol Berz, Jane Powers, Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Janet Smith, Chairwoman Yvonne Wood; (Seated) Wendy Pitts Reeves, Susan Huggins, Rep. Karen Camper, Alma Sanford.

The Tennessee Economic Council and Foundation held its annual Retreat in August, in Chattanooga. Members came from all parts of the state to participate in this three-day event to focus on the continued growth and development of the Council and Foundation.

The event was hosted by Council member, Carol Berz, who also facilitated the retreat. She has earned a Ph.D. and J.D. and is the Chief Executive Officer of Private Dispute Resolution Services, and an elected City Councilwoman in Chattanooga. She is a highly-regarded mediator and trainer.

The focus of the Retreat was to review the past year's activity and develop a Program of Work for the upcoming year. Yvonne Wood, chair of the Council said, "Our goal was to do a critical review of work we have done this past year as well as other years and develop a strong research focus project for the 2012-2013 year."

The mission of the Council is to serve as an economic advocate for women. It assesses Tennessee women's economic status and develops and advocates solutions to address women's economic needs to help them achieve economic autonomy. This includes employment policies and practices, educational needs and opportunities, child care, property rights, health care,

domestic relations and the effect of federal and state laws on women.

"The Retreat was an excellent opportunity for Council members to get together and collaboratively review the many ideas and opportunities they bring to the table from their various backgrounds and professions. We set out to design a plan of work; review our resources to implement that plan; and set our path for the upcoming year...and we achieved all that and more," said Berz.

The Retreat ended with the Council and Foundation having a clear plan of action for the upcoming year. "We achieved our goal by focusing on two distinct projects for the upcoming year. We will update the 2006 study on the *Economic Impact of Domestic Violence* and conduct a *Women & Work Project*. These two very ambitious projects will bring information to the forefront about the economic effect domestic violence has on the entire state's economy and ways to develop one of the state's strongest and most treasured assets; women," said Wood.

The Tennessee Economic Council on Women celebrates its 15th year anniversary in 2013. It was established by the Tennessee General Assembly as a state agency in 1998.

2012 Higher Education Scholarships Available

Apply now to the Women's Economic Council Foundation

Earning an education is one of the best ways a woman can ensure her economic autonomy. Since 2007 the Women's Economic Council Foundation has awarded three scholarships to graduating senior high school girls and three scholarships to non-traditional women students. In addition to academic achievement the Foundation considers leadership and community activities in the awarding of scholarships.

Pat Pierce, chair of the scholarships committee, says, "Thanks to our generous donors we will offer six scholarships again this year! These scholarships provide much needed financial assistance to students who are pursuing their education dreams."

This year, applications for scholarships will be accepted from August 15 until September 28 on the WECF website: tnwomensummit.org. Awards will be presented at the October 22nd Economic Summit for Women at the Nashville Airport Marriott.

For more information, visit

www.tnwomensummit.org

The Middle Tennessee Diversity Forum Holds Fall Event

Yvonne Wood & Kia Jarmon Receive Diversity Awards

The Middle Tennessee Diversity Forum presented awards to four outstanding individuals at the 2012 Workplace Awards at its Fall event. The September session, which focused on “Women in the Workplace: Sticky Floor or Glass Ceiling?” was held at the Belmont University Curb Event Center.

“It was an honor to present awards to individuals who have led such extraordinary careers in the Middle Tennessee area,” said Jacky Akbari, Middle Tennessee Diversity Forum, Co-Founder/ Board Chair and Women in the Workplace, Event Chair. “Each recipient is a true leader.”

Yvonne Wood, received the “Woman of the Year” award and Kia Jarmon received the “Woman to Watch” award.

Woman of the Year

Yvonne Wood

Ms. Wood is president of Wood Conference & Event Planning and serves as Chairperson of the Board of the Ten-

nessee Economic Council on Women. Wood is a retired State of Tennessee employee, serving in positions including the Office of the Governor, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and the Medicaid/Tenn Care



Kia Jarmon, Nancy Petersen Hearn, Yvonne Wood, Paul Haynes

Program. She has been a strong advocate for women’s rights and focused on uplifting and empowering women. She has received numerous awards, among them the Nashville ATHENA Award, the NAWBO, Woman Business Owner of the Year Award in 2004 and the 2012 Molly Todd Cup Award from Nashville CABLE. She also served as president of ATHENA International 2005-2007 and was in

the 2005-06 Leadership Nashville Class.

Woman to Watch

Kia Jarmon

Ms. Jarmon is the creative director of MEPR Agency, a boutique public relations and brand strategic firm, a company she founded in 2006. She

preneurial category. She was also in the 2010 class of Forty under 40 from the Nashville Business Journal and Top 30 under 30 from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She was a nominee in the 2011 inaugural class of the Athena YP (Young Professionals) award.

Nancy Petersen Hearn, chairman and CEO of Peterson Tool Company, Inc., received the “Trailblazer of the Year” award and Paul Haynes, executive director of the Nashville Careet Advancement Center, received the “Man of the Year” award. All of the award recipients were selected among a high-caliber of individuals who were nominated. “The Women in the Workplace” event focused on women who have achieved and a man ‘who gets it’ with respect to women’s issues,” stated Akbari.

The Middle Tennessee Diversity Forum holds sessions each quarter and focuses on different perspectives. It also reviews the inclusiveness of the workplace and growth that can take place in an organization with respect to diversity.

TECW Sets Calendar For 2013

At the annual retreat for the TECW & Foundation, the dates were set for the next year’s meetings and activities. They include:

September 21, 2012

Southeast Tennessee Women’s Summit
Chattanooga

October 21-22, 2012

Ninth Annual Economic Summit for
Women-Nashville

October 23, 2012

Quarterly Meeting-Nashville

January 4, 2013

Winter Quarterly Meeting-Nashville

May 17, 2013

Spring Quarterly Meeting-Nashville

June 14, 2013

East Tennessee Women’s Leadership Conference-Knoxville

August 16, 2013

Annual Retreat

August 17, 2013

Summer Quarterly Meeting

October 20-21, 2013

10th Annual Economic Summit for Women
Nashville

October 22, 2013

Fall Quarterly Meeting



A Special Thanks to Our Upcoming 2012 Partners

As we approach the Ninth Annual Economic Summit for Women on October 22nd, the Economic Council and staff would like to share our utmost appreciation for the partners that are helping to make this event an enriching success for the women of Tennessee.

Many of these organizations have been advocates of women for decades; committing countless resources and limitless energy to our cause.

We thank them for their continued efforts and invite you to come be a part of this fantastic event for men and women throughout Tennessee.

Best Wishes,

Ninth Annual Economic Summit for Women

*"Charting the Course
Toward Economic Equality"*



Laurel Bellows
ABA
President



Lilly Ledbetter
Author &
Advocate



Deb Sofield
Executive Speech
Coach



**Take Advantage of
Early-Registration By
OCTOBER 12th!**

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Thank You To Our Upcoming Summit Partners!